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Discrete Mathematics 306 (2006) 2293–2295

**DISCRETE
MATHEMATICS**

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Preface

Through his writings, travels and personal encounters, Claude Berge profoundly influenced a generation of mathematicians. His elegance, charm, imagination, sense of play, and spirit of adventure permeated his many books. For him, mathematics was a source of recreation. He adored the beauty of the subject and abhorred its mundane technical aspects.

This Special Issue of articles dedicated to Berge's memory reflects his diverse mathematical interests: games, convexity, matchings, linear optimization, perfect graphs, hypergraphs, balanced matrices, path partitions, kernels. Most of our contributors knew him well. Several were close friends. We thank all of them warmly for participating in this project. We also thank the referees for their help in preparing this volume. Our hope is that the resulting collection of papers will prove to be a fitting tribute to Claude and his mathematical legacy.

Adrian Bondy, Vašek Chvátal
February 2006



Claude Berge and an illustrious ancestor, Félix Faure (Photograph©Adrian Bondy).